

Message Text

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INFO NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

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UNCLAS PARIS 02328

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, FR, TU

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PARIS-MATCH ARTICLE ON DC-10 CRASH

1. FEBRUARY 1 ISSUE OF WEEKLY MAGAZINE PARIS-MATCH PUBLISHES LONG ARTICLE PURPORTING TO TELL "THE TRUE STORY" BEHIND CAUSE OF CRASH OF TURKISH AIRLINES' DC-10 LAST YEAR.

2. WHILE ARTICLE IS ACCOMPANIED BY DRAWINGS SHOWING LIKELY TRAIN OF EVENTS FOLLOWING LOSS OF DC-10'S CARGO DOOR, ARTICLE ITSELF DOES NOT EVEN TOUCH ON SPECULATION AS TO POSSIBLE REASONS FOR LOSS OF DOOR IN FLIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY. RATHER, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT MAJOR CONTRIBUTING FACTOR WAS INADEQUATE TRAINING OF TURKISH AIRLINES' FLIGHT ENGINEERS, WITH RESULT ENGINEER ON DC-10 FLIGHT THAT CRASHED MAY NOT HAVE NOTICED OR CORRECTLY INTERPRETED WARNING LIGHT INDICATING CARGO DOOR WAS IMPROPERLY SECURED. ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY DC-10'S WERE BOUGHT BY TURKISH AIRLINES AFTER ESPECIALLY "HARD SELL" CAMPAIGN BY MCDONNELL DOUGLAS; TURKISH AIRLINES RUSHED DC-10'S INTO SERVICE BEFORE FLIGHT CREWS AND MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL COULD BE PROPER-
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LY TRAINED; AND MCDONNELL DOUGLAS THEREAFTER QUIBBLED OVER FUNDING OF FOLLOW-UP TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSIS-

TANCE. THIS RAISES THE QUESTION FOR PARIS-MATCH OF "THE SALE OF VERY SOPHISTICATED AIRCRAFT TO BUYERS WHO MAY LACK THE EXPERIENCE AND THE FUNDS ENABLING THEM TO OPERATE THE AIRCRAFT UNDER CONDITIONS OF COMPLETE SAFETY". (PARIS-MATCH NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT THIS WAS SITUATION AT TIME OF LAST YEAR'S CRASH AND IN MEANTIME UNITED AIRLINES HAS TAKEN OVER TRAINING OF TURKISH AIRLINES' CREWS.)

3. AFTER ALLUDING TO RECENT CONGRESSIONAL REPORTS CRITICAL OF FAA, ARTICLE CLAIMS THAT FAA IS UNABLE TO IMPOSE ELEMENTARY RULES OF SAFETY INTERNATIONALLY AND IS FURTHER UNABLE TO CONTROL INTERNATIONAL MARKETING OF AIRCRAFT, WITH RESULT AEROSPACE INDUSTRY SELF-POLICES ITSELF IN DETERMINING WHETHER TO SELL HIGH-TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT TO FOREIGN COMPANIES "LACKING THE NECESSARY MATURITY" FOR PROPERLY OPERATING THE EQUIPMENT. IN SUM, CONCLUDES PARIS-MATCH, THE DC-10 CRASH VICTIMS DIED BECAUSE INDUSTRY COULDN'T VIOLATE ITS TWO CARDINAL RULES OF FREE COMPETITION AND "THE BUYER IS ALWAYS RIGHT"

4. ARTICLE MAKES FREQUENT REFERENCE TO PENDING LAW SUITS IN CALIFORNIA COURT, AND MUCH OF CONTENT OF ARTICLE MAY HAVE BEEN DRAWN FROM MATERIAL FILED IN THOSE SUITS.

5. COPIES OF ARTICLE ARE BEING POUCHED TO ALL ADDRESSES THIS TELEGRAM. RUSH

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